considered inspection reports received in respect of 90 courses and have recommended for recognition of 36 courses. The remaining 54 courses have not been recommended for recognition on account of various deficiencies pointed out in the inspection reports.

Various medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh have also sent requests for increase of seats in 73 Postgraduate courses in different disciplines. Inspection reports received in respect of 8 courses, which are awaiting consideration by the Postgraduate Medical Education Committee. The inspection reports in respect of remaining 65 courses are awaited.

Irregularities in Patna Medical College

1955. SHRIRAJKUMAR DHOOT:Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of irregularities in Patna Medical College have come to the notice of Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that apart from financial irregularities, the students have been harassed and victimized to the extent that some have tried to commit suicide;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against the erring officials and faculty and the steps taken to run the college according to the prescribed rules and regulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No such reports have been received by the Government.

(c) Not applicable in view of (a) and (b).

(d) No action in view of (a) to (c).

Financial assistance to voluntary organisations for setting-up of hospitals/dispensaries

1956. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of voluntary organizations that were given financial assistance during the year 2001 -2002 for encouraging setting-up of new hospitals/dispensaries in rural areas and improving existing hospital facilities; and

(b) the number of organizations which furnished utilization certificates and were sanctioned further assistance and the number of organization which did not furnish utilization certificates and were denied assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Two voluntary organizations were given financial assistance during the year 2001 -2002 under the "Scheme for Improvement of Medical Services". The utilization certificates from these organizations have not yet become due. The "Scheme for Improvement of Medical Services" and the "Special Health Scheme for Rural Areas" have since been discontinued and, therefore, the question of sanction or denial of further assistance does not arise.

Erosion in professional standards of doctors

1957. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an erosion in professional standards of doctors working in Government hospitals;

(b) if not, the number of deaths due to medical negligence in the country during last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of measures taken to avoid/curb such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In so far as the Central Government Hospitals, *viz.* Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC and Associated Hospitals are concerned, there is no erosion in professional standards of doctors working in these hospitals and no incidents of death due to medical negligence in the last three years has been recorded. However, Medical Committee of each hospital meets at regular interval to review the mortality.

Safe injection practice

1958. SHRI C.RTHIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate policy for safe injection practice keeping in mind Joint Statement by WHO-UNICEF-